



February 10, 2010

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords
1661 N. Swan, Suite 112
Tucson, AZ 85712

Dear Representative Giffords:

It is my pleasure to support the Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Project that originates from the UA College of Engineering. The Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Department has world class faculty in the area of aerodynamics, stability, controls, and computational modeling. This project would add to an impressive array of test equipment that can be used to further knowledge and in particular further our abilities in aerospace and defense. The tunnel would be unique in its capabilities and would add to the services that the UA can provide to existing Southern Arizona aerospace companies. The proposed facility will very likely attract external research and development funds into the Arizona economy. This extra economic activity will create jobs in engineering and construction and potentially result in the formation of new businesses.

This project is also supported by Raytheon and they will surely be large users of the facility. There is a significant amount of literature emerging that states that hypersonic flight will be critical to national security and defense as well as civilian applications. This project will help the UA build research infrastructure that can eventually be extended to include material testing. The University will hire additional faculty in hypersonics and they will also make Southern Arizona more attractive to new aerospace business. The payoff for this \$8M investment can be extremely large for both the UA and Southern Arizona.

I thank you for your help and support in this matter.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Snell", is written over a light-colored background.

Joe Snell
President and CEO

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